ACROSS / A15

DENR issues 1-strike policy where illegal logging is confirmed

BUSINESS / B1

Teves is Asia's finance minister of the year

BUSINESS / B3

Fearless marketing forecast for 2009: Asia may be top destination for global brands

NEWS / A2

2 more rural banks shut down

OMG! US porn industry seeking $5-B bailout



LOS ANGELES—TWO porn moguls, including Hustler magazine founder Larry Flynt, are seeking a $5-billion bailout from Washington, arguing that the limp US economy

OMG A11

Traders cheer release of 'holiday economics' sked

By TJ Burgonio and Dazin L. Lucas

FRESH FROM AN 11-DAY HOLIDAY break, the longest in recent history, Filipinos can look forward to 14 long weekends in 2009.

And the local business community, after several years of complaining about last-minute holiday declarations, seems to finally have something to cheer about: President Macapagal-Arroyo's so-called "holiday economics."

TRADERS A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, January 9, 2009 • Vol. 24 / No. 33 website: www.inquirer.net

'Family feud over money'

Suspect Brodett's parents lash back

RICHARD "BUTCH" BRODETT SR. AND HIS wife Myra accused yesterday Dave and Marissa Brodett of appearing at a hearing of a House committee on illegal drugs out of revenge triggered by a longstanding family feud over money.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, Myra denied allegations made by the other Brodetts on substance abuse, saying "I do not use or push drugs and neither does my son [Richard]."

"This is all about money," Richard's parents said, claiming that they and the other couple have been involved in a feud for more than 10 years over the matter.

Myra claimed that despite the family feud, she allowed Dave and Marissa free use for two years of condominium units in West Apala that she inherited from her side of the family.

The suspect's parents alleged that they paid association dues and other bills for the "PDEA informants."

"From late 2004 to 2005, Marissa caused several incidents which led to us filing complaints against her, such as for harassment, 'carnapping,' slams and scandal, ejectment and attempted kidnapping. We then stopped all financial support," Butch and Myra said in their statement.

"They were angry when we stopped paying for all their bills and they sought to get back at us. This is the motive behind their actions," Butch and Myra said.

"Obviously, the only purpose why they (Dave and Marissa)

FAMILY A6



THE OTHER BRODETTS Dave, wife Marissa and their son Anthony drop a bombshell during Wednesday's hearing of the House committee on dangerous drugs which reportedly boosts the charges filed by the PDEA against the so-called Alabang Boys.

Disbarment case filed vs 'Alabang Boys' lawyer

By Leila Salaverria and Jeannette I. Andrade

A COMPLAINT FOR THE DISBARment of the lawyer of two of the three drug suspects known as the "Alabang Boys" was filed by a crime watch group in the Supreme Court yesterday.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) accused lawyer Felisberto Verano Jr. of "unethical conduct" for drafting the release order for his clients Joseph Tecson and Richard Brodett using a letterhead of the Department of Justice (DOJ) for signing by Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"With the shrewdness in making such highly irregular maneuvers within the walls of the Department of Justice, his deceitful manner, lack of ethical sense and presumptuousness in undermining the legal process, Attorney Verano has made a mockery of justice," the VACC wrote Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Verano told the Inquirer yesterday that he was ready to face the music. "I will give them my reasons for doing what I did—this extreme effort to help my clients," he said.

At Wednesday's hearing by the House committee on dangerous drugs, Verano admitted that he drafted the re-

DISBARMENT A6

Lawmakers hail testimony of Dave Brodett, wife

By Leila B. Salaverria

A TESTIMONY OF AN UNCLE AND A cousin implicating Richard Brodett Jr. in illegal drugs lends credence to the buy-bust operation of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) against him and two other young men, according to a lawmaker.

Parañaque Rep. Rollo Golez said the statements of Dave Brodett and his son Anthony against Richard was favorable to the PDEA, even if it may not necessarily be used as evidence.

Dave and Anthony told Wednesday's hearing of the House committee on dangerous drugs that Richard used and sold drugs, and that his mother Myra joined him in using illegal substances.

An emotional Dave, a former basketball player and actor, said he was speaking out to clear the Brodett family name, which he said was being sullied by his nephew's activities.

"Their revelation is useful in assessing the character of the dramatis per-

LAWMAKERS A6

RP-US 'Balikatan' goes to Bicol; no war games

By Ephraim Aguilar and Rey Gorsolia
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—WHILE NO ONE CAN predict how a Barack Obama presidency will affect ties between the Philippines and the United States, a US Navy officer thinks the time-tested "good relations" are not likely to change.

Proof of this, according to Capt. Kelly Schmader, commander of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment, is the 2009 RP-US Balikatan military exercises that will be held in three Bicol provinces—Albay, Masbate and Sorsogon—in April.

Schmader visited the Bicol region yesterday to see to the final stages of surveying and planning for the Balikatan (meaning "shoulder to shoulder"), which is now on its 14th year in the country.

"My commander in chief is President [George W.] Bush. Nobody knows at this point what might happen beyond his administration. But personally, I do not expect that the good RP-US ties will change," Schmader said at a press conference.

The Balikatan is part of the mutual defense treaty between the Philippines and the United States, he pointed out.

In Sorsogon on Wednesday, Schmader and 30 other US soldiers

RP-US BALIKATAN A6

Gov't agents not keeping arrest records

By Nikko Dizon

IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS PRACTIcally no way of tracing a missing person who turns out to be arrested by state agents for the simple reason that the military and police neither document custody turnovers nor inform families of suspects.

This emerged yesterday during a public hearing conducted by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on the five-day disappearance last year of Mohammad Diya Hamja, a suspected member of the detained Abu Sayyaf gang of kidnappers.

GOV'T AGENTS A6



WHAT HAPPENED? Myra Beubita, a Red rebel suspect (right), who was being treated at Lourdes Hospital in Manila for a bullet wound in her stomach after her capture, is forcibly wheeled out of the hospital. (Story on Page A2.)

17 Filipinos evacuated from war-torn Gaza

THE FIRST BATCH OF 17 FILipinos has been evacuated from war-torn Gaza and will travel to Jordan before flying back to the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

The Filipinos were among 223 foreigners who were brought out of the besieged area in a convoy led by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the DFA said, citing a report from the Philippine Embassy in Israel.

The Filipinos were met at the Gaza-Israel border by Philippine Ambassador Petronila Garcia and will then

17 FILIPINOS A11





FATHERS AT THE WAR ZONE

An Israeli Army officer embraces one of 2 sons visiting him at post outside northern Gaza Strip. On the other side, a Palestinian tightly holds his son who's been wounded.

SECOND FRONT?

Rockets from Lebanon hit N. Israel

JERUSALEM—LEBANESE MILITANTS fired at least three rockets into northern Israel early Thursday, threatening to open a new front for the Jewish state as it pushed forward with its bloody offensive in the Gaza Strip.

There were no serious injuries, but the rockets on Israel's north raised the specter of renewed hostilities with Hezbollah, just 2½ years after Israel battled the guerrilla group to a 34-day stalemate. Hezbollah started the 2006 war as Israel was battling Palestinian militants in Gaza.

Lebanon's government, wary of conflict, quickly condemned the rocket fire and said it was trying to determine who was behind the attack. Israel fired mortar shells into southern Lebanon in response.

The Israeli military ordered a three-hour pause to its military operation in Gaza for a second day Thursday to allow the flow of humanitarian aid to embattled Palestinians.

In new Gaza fighting, Israel killed at least five people, including four militants, raising the death toll from its 13-day offensive to nearly 700 people, according to Palestinian medical officials.

With roughly half the dead believed to be civilians, international efforts to broker a ceasefire have been gaining steam.

ROCKETS A10

Second FRONT PAGE



WEATHER FORECAST

SIX DIGIT: 5 6 4 5 9 2

SUERTRES: 9 4 5 · 5 2 8 · 5 7 4

EZ2: 13 18 · 5 6

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 7 8 10 14 36 39 — P23,864,947.20

2 more rural banks closed

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS YESTERday shut down two Pampanga-based rural banks, the first ones to fall in the new year, after they suspended operations voluntarily.

UN experts inspect hog farms

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—A TEAM of experts from three United Nations agencies yesterday began collecting samples from pig farms ...

Powder in US Embassy mail stirs anthrax scare

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tina G. Santos

A SMALL CORNER OF THE MANILA Post Office where letters addressed to the United States Embassy are processed was cordoned off yesterday following a report a letter received at the US mission had contained a white powder, possibly anthrax.



VILLANUEVA: "Nothing was found"

Agents seize patient, 2 guards from hospital

By Edwin Bacasmas, Jeannette Andrade and Erika Sauler

GOVERNMENT AGENTS YESTERDAY ARrested two guards in a private hospital who tried to stop them from taking out of the premises a female patient suspected of being a communist rebel.

Rustan's

END OF SEASON SALE

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HSBC
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YOUNG ADULT

MAKATI — SHANGRI-LA PLAZA — ALABANG TOWN CENTER — GATEWAY — AYALA CENTER, CEBU — ROBINSONS PLACE, MANILA

GMA has no choice but to step down, says lawyer

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will step down on June 30, 2010 as mandated by the Constitution.

[illegible]

COPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

*If you agree or have any comments on the COPW position, **infotext to rtc 0917-5555754***

An Urgent Appeal to our Government:

REFORM OUR REGULATORY AGENCIES TO AVOID PITFALLS THAT LED TO THE GLOBAL CRISIS

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) urges our government to ***learn lessons from the worldwide economic crisis by strengthening our regulatory agencies.***

Such strengthened regulatory functions must be exercised by regulatory agencies such as the ***Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System (MWSS), Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and Toll Regulatory Board (TRB).***

The United States has already begun its own reforms with President-elect Barack Obama's appointment of new heads in key regulatory agencies particularly the ***Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Federal Reserve, Securities & Exchange Commission, and Treasury Department.*** These measures were instituted ***to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance in the world's largest economy.***

THERE MUST BE TRANSPARENCY IN OIL PRICING UNDER A DEREGULATED ENVIRONMENT

While COPW has always been in favor of a deregulated oil industry, ***we urge the DOE-DOJ Task Force to judiciously exercise its powers in order to prevent oil companies from passing on to consumers higher-than-market prices due to hedging and over-speculation.***

Oil companies must be required to explain the value and volume of their inventories including ocean freight, insurance, biofuel additives, and delivery costs from dock to depot to gas stations.

As a regulatory agency, the DOE must exercise its enforcement functions in matters within its authority so that there will be no need for intervention from Congress and to ensure that the ***safeguards built into Chapter III of the Oil Deregulation Law*** are being implemented:

- ***Section 11 (a)*** which prohibits acts of cartelization.
- ***Section 12 (a)*** which requires oil companies to submit the volume and value of shipments as they arrive to the Secretary of Energy and the DOE-DOJ Task Force so it can determine whether reflected prices are reasonable or not.

WEEKLY OIL PRICE UPDATES

Pump prices should already reflect world market prices since it will be recalled that ***the oil companies were in an "all even" or "patas na" position as of October 31, 2008.***

A "no rollback" scenario in the month of January is unacceptable.
We should expect a weekly rollback of ***at least P2.00 starting weeks ending January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th to reflect market prices when ordered in December.***

When oil prices in December went ***as low as $35.35 per barrel for delivery in February,*** oil companies should have already bought all their requirements for the entire month of February from the futures market at $35.35 to protect themselves from higher prices.

COPW accepts that ***refiners Shell and Petron and importers Chevron, Total, and Seaoil incurred losses*** until the end of 2008 because they hedged when prices of oil were high.

It is important that they hedge now. Once Barack Obama is sworn in as US President, there will be more confidence in the global economy which in turn will trigger oil prices to go back up.

COPW notes that ***refiners Shell and Petron have the leverage to base their prices cheaper than spot market prices*** because they are dominant players in the global market.

COPW urges our government to immediately implement reforms that will strengthen the powers of our regulatory agencies, and the oil companies to start the year right by being transparent and forthright especially when it comes to the pump prices of gasoline and diesel.

It is only through working together that we can help spare the Filipino Consumer from the worst effects of the worldwide economic crisis.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/
We will appreciate getting feedback from you. Direct Line 844-8785; Fax: 818-6202 • E-mail: copw@cll.com.ph. Thank you.


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Actor/TV Host
WILCON DEPOT
WILCON SUPPLY
Build anything. We have everything.

Lawmakers puzzled by Gonzalez's lack of anger at Verano

'Family feud over money'

Lawmakers hail . . .

Disbarment case filed vs 'Alabang Boys' lawyer



AT THE BAR OF JUSTICE

De la Pazes hold off seeking Pangandaman's suspension

Immigration bureau raked in P2B in '08

More revenue seen

VIMS project

Baguio writing workshop

'Alabang Boys' case revives calls return of death penalty

'Profile'

'Anomalies, corruption'

'Cruel and inhuman'

'Balikatan' goes to Bicol; no war games

Purely humanitarian

Intervention suspected

Local materials

Gov't agents not keeping arrest records

Sandal in PNP office

'People not merchandise'

The Daily Gospel

Friday, January 9, 2009

After Epiphany

Mark Saturnino

Commentary

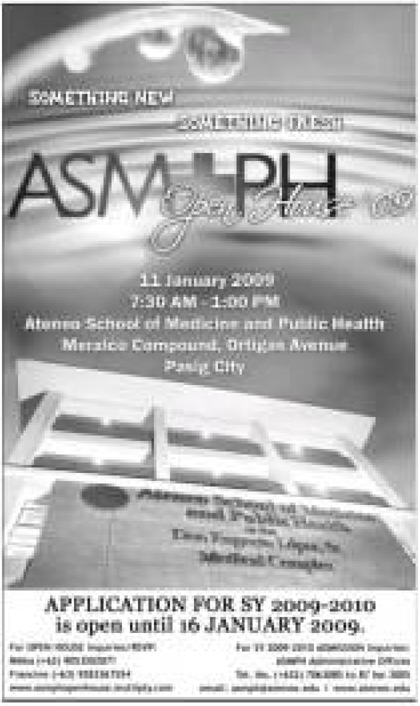
Japanese women going bananas over banana health diet

BATAAN NUKE PLANT

Proposal to bring 'white elephant' to life revived



Swiss court upholds PCGG



Rockets from Lebanon hit northern Israel

Splinter groups blamed

Air strikes

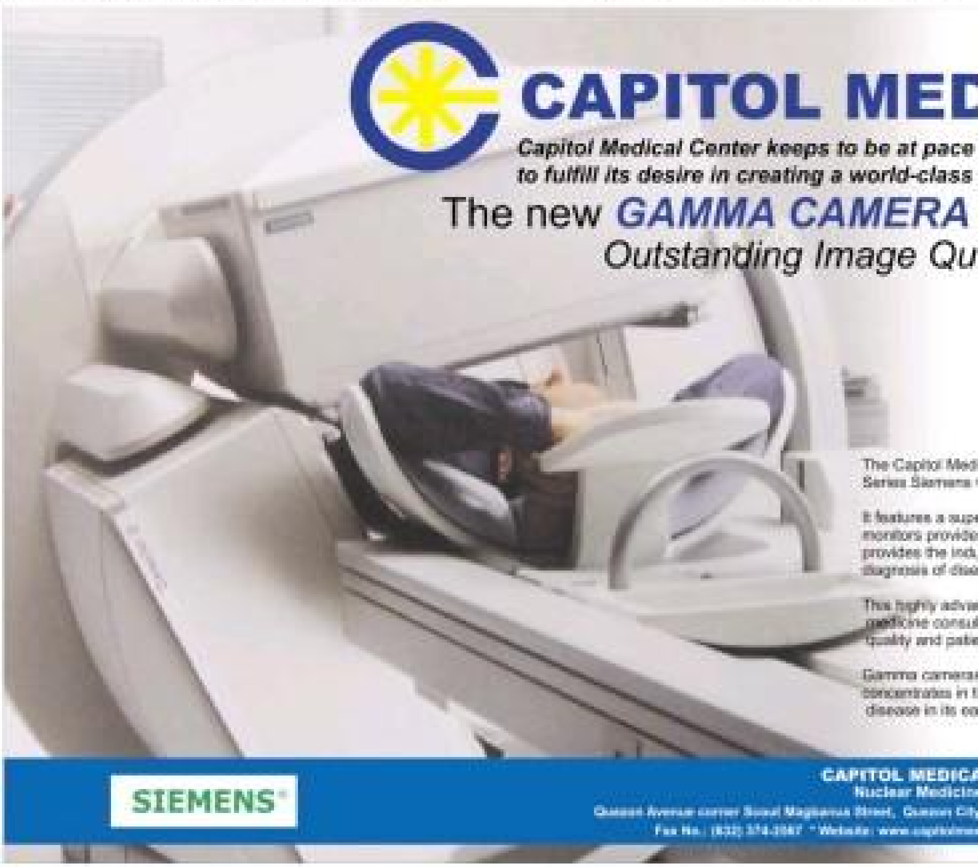
Diplomatic front

Traders cheer release of 'holiday economics' schedu

Cheers from MBC

Emerging trend

Welcome move



17 Filipinos evacuated from war-torn Gaza

'Bromance,' 'sexting' fight for best new word honors

Sexting for sextaholics

OMG, US porn industry seeks $5-B bailout

DVD sales down

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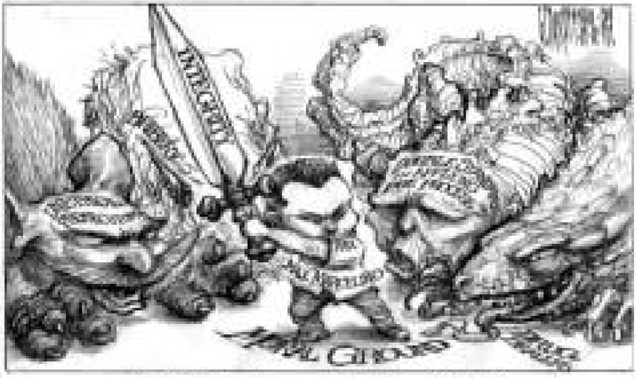
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Death's return

EDITORIALS

Hard options



Is GMA being misled by SBMA?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Due process: So how much process is due?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Might is right

Analysis



Amando Doronila

Moderation

At Large



Rina Jimenez-David

Rizal beyond the image

Looking Back



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Quiapo oracle

Pinoy Kasi



Michael L. Tan

Better the students than 'solons'

LETTERS

Not a product of creative writing

Solace in reaction to Cory's 'sorry'

De Quiros melts heart

'I am Filipino' inspired

Across the NATION

NEWSBRIEFS

TAGUM CITY

Fire hits Diwalwal

SORSOGON

NPAs kill Army agent

DAVAO CITY

Goat supply short

DIGOS CITY

2 escapees captured

MEYCAUAYAN CITY

Dad, boyfriend dead

DENR lays down '1-strike policy'

Atienza warns execs illegal logging will cost them their jobs

By Alcuin Papa

ENVIRONMENT SECretary Joselito Atienza yesterday announced a "one-strike policy" that would remove regional officials in areas where illegal logging would be confirmed.



LIFE RELOCATED
People displaced by Supertyphoon "Reming" in 2006 continue to live at a resettlement site in Legazpi City for at least two years since they moved out of their homes.

PDEA says Kalinga, not Sagada, top marijuana source

Real source

Sustained campaign

DENR: No trees will be cut for Subic casino

By Alcuin Papa

NO TREES WILL BE CUT FOR any project inside the Subic Freeport, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

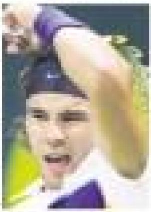




Rockets repulse slumping Celtics

Cavaliers 111, Bobcats 81

Nadal, Federer gain q'finals



NADAL

Slovakia advances to final

Mauresmo stuns Ivanovic

In your corner, win or lose

ONE GAME AT A TIME



Liga stint for Pacquiao

Crack US cockers head foreign field in tough NCA World Slasher

S/JC International Derby set

Pasay cockfest gets going

SPORTS

Beermen, Realtors seek quarterfinal sweep today

Mercado, Norwood, Aquino fined P20,000, suspended 1 game each for near free-for-all


MERCADO


NORWOOD


AQUINO


YEO

Renaming Air21 not that simple



Toyota Otis, BK fives pull off reversals

Search continues for naturalized cager

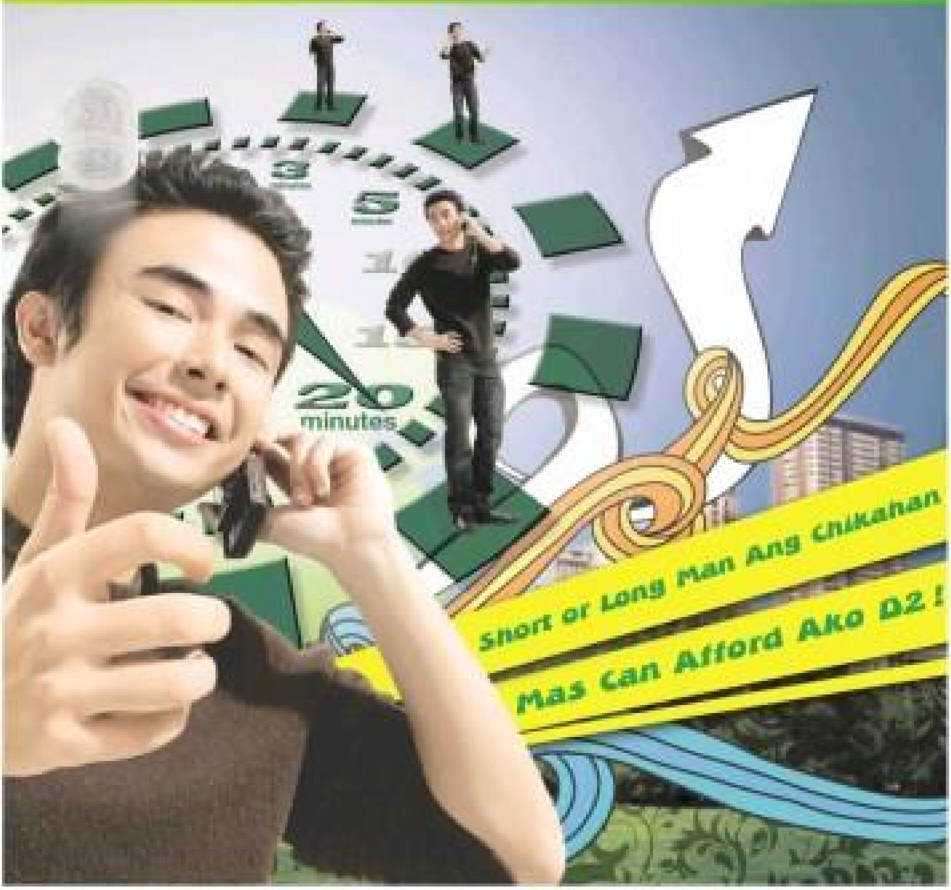
ANDRADA CUP

Lazaro overpowers Japanese bet, keeps 16-under crown


LAZARO: Going for a championship double.

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A plus METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

High-tech gadgets to secure Black Nazarene

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Dona Pazzibugan

THE MANILA POLICE DIStrict (MPD) will introduce technological innovations to the annual Black Nazarene traditional procession in ensuring the safety of devotees.

MPD Director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales revealed that organizers of the annual procession have agreed to the installation of a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking device on the carriage of the Black Nazarene.

Rosales said the tracking device would provide the MPD with the real-time location of the procession as it progresses while closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in at least three street corners would provide police personnel with a highly reliable peek into the situation on the ground. (See Procession route and traffic advisory below.)

"Using handheld radios, the information relayed to headquarters have delay because of the noise. Keeping track of the procession in real time would provide us with enough time to react to situations on the ground," the MPD director pointed out.

He stressed that the organizers have agreed to and welcome the MPD scheme as he added that should there be fine weather, small hot air balloons carrying cameras would also be deployed.

The hot air balloons were first deployed last year on All Saints' Day, monitoring the movement of people visiting cemeteries.

"This will be a good dry-run for our gadgets although they have yet to be formally launched in time for the MPD's anniversary on Tuesday," Rosales revealed.

Apart from the high-tech gadgetry, the

TURN TO PAGE A20

Procession route

FROM Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park, the procession will pass through P. Burgos Street toward MacArthur Bridge and Rizal Avenue, turn right to C.M. Recto Avenue, then off to Loyola Street. From there, it will turn right to Arlegui Street toward Quezon Boulevard, then through Carlos Palanca and Villalobos streets toward the Quiapo Church.

Traffic advisory

Starting at 8:30 a.m. today, traffic on the southbound lane of Quezon Boulevard from Arsenio to Plaza Miranda as well as other streets where the procession will pass will be closed.

Private motorists are advised to take alternative routes to avoid heavy traffic. Passenger jeepneys plying their routes through España bound for South Pier are advised to turn left at Nicanor Reyes, right at Recto toward Jose Abad Santos, left at Reina Regente through Jones Bridge to Magallanes Drive.

Vehicles from the northern part of Manila toward Bonifacio Drive and Taft Avenue are advised to take Roberto S. Oca Street, turn left at Delgado Street then Bonifacio Drive through A. Soriano Street up to Magallanes Drive and right to P. Burgos Street toward the Lagusnilad to Taft Avenue.

Buses from south Manila through Taft Avenue will be prohibited from plying their routes from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and will only be allowed to pass through President Quirino Avenue.

Lim firm on zero-vendor policy on city streets

6 Manila jail inmates escape ala 'MacGyver'



TONDO ACCIDENT

High-tech gadgets

4 slain in QC shootout linked to kidnap cases

5 inmates face raps for death of 2 prisoners

METROBRIEFS

Fire in Pasig City

Get permits early

Rob suspect shot

Murdered in sleep

Sto. Niño images

DID YOU KNOW

Experts: Shame likely prompted Merckle suicide

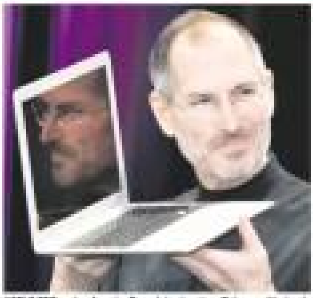

MERCKLE


HEAVY FLYERS

EU intervenes in gas dispute

S. Koreans: We were pressed to have sex with US soldiers

The WORLD



APPLE CEO and co-founder Steve Jobs showing off the new Macbook Air ultra-portable laptop in San Francisco on Jan. 15, 2008. AP

Apple's Jobs takes $1-salary, but loses $500M from stocks

US job losses in December could be worst in 60 years

NEW YORK/SINGAPORE—A fresh wave of profit warnings and job cuts soured investor sentiment on Thursday after an employment report suggested US job losses in December could be the worst in almost 60 years.



Cheney expects to retire completely from public life



CHENEY AP

Pakistan national security adviser fired

BUSINESS

Gov't raises $1.5B from sale of 10-year bonds

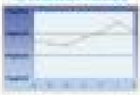
RP decision to borrow early in the year said to be paying off

By Michelle V. Remo

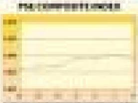
THE GOVERNMENT SOLD $1.5 BILLION WORTH OF long-term bonds in the international capital market yesterday morning, completing its foreign commercial borrowing requirement for 2009.

Philippine bond gets B1 rating from Moody's

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



Teves is Asia's finance minister of the year



TEVES

Asian stocks drop as crisis rears its head

IN THIS ISSUE

SMC to pay $10M for right to buy indirect Petron stake

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Jailhouse corporation

corporate securities info

Raul J. Palabrica



Qualification

Disqualification

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Fearless marketing forecast for 2009

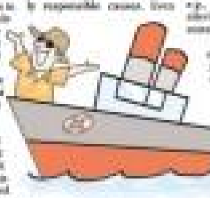
Asia may become a top destination for global brands

By Karen F. De Asis
Contributor









Skills training seminars set

Should this marketing student fear for his future?



Filipinos top global consumption, video game surveys

By Penelope Endozo



Media-savvy Filipinos

Medium is the message

Penetrating Asia

Private group scheduled to take over Transco next week

Mining investments seen at $1B

Several projects expected to go on stream this year

BSP: Monetary policy should be anticipatory

PDIC eyes new insurance premium assessment method



Backyard food production needed

COMMENTARY

Calcium, sun and exercise

Recommendation

Gov't raises $1.5B . . .

Philippine bond gets B1 rating . . .

CSI

Membership

SMC to pay $10M for right to buy . . .

LIFESTYLE *Fashion & Beauty*

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Joanni Epperson and Ria Francisco-Prieto

Luxury is still 'in' in 2009—but keep it a secret

Lagerfeld: 'If you want only things you can afford, it's boring'

THE "IT" BAG WILL become a source of embarrassment, a luxury industry analyst and consultant predicted in a luxury conference in London in November.

Not only will it signify that "you don't have your own view of fashion," the analyst, according to Women's Wear Daily, also referred to a phenomenon called "luxury fatigue" and consumers' growing fear of incurring debt.

Soon enough, the New York Times reported recent buying by New York City's affluent consumers. Lugging multiple shopping bags when the economy is in a slump was now deemed... even by the rich... vulgar.

No one wanted to appear flagrant, of course, but this was the upper crust. And shop they still

LUXURY C4



PERFORATED ceiling with circular patterns at SM Baliwag's Event Center.



SM CHAIR and founder Henry Sy Sr. (seated) at the blessing ceremonies of SM City Baliwag. He is joined by Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza, SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy, Bishop José Oliveros, SM Prime president Hans Sy, Ms Felicidad Sy and Msgr. Andres Valera.

SM City Baliwag opens

IT WAS AN EARLY CHRISTMAS for Bulakeños when SM City Baliwag recently opened its doors to the public. Thousands of shoppers quickly filled the mall when—in the SM tradition—SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy and SM Supermarket president Herbert T. Sy opened the doors to the first wave of customers.

Baliwag Mayor Romy Estrella and his wife, Baliwag Tourism chief Sonia Estrella, joined them in welcoming the public to the mall.

A blessing was held the day before with a concelebrated Mass led by Bishop José Oliveros. This was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony graced by the bishop, Bulacan Governor Joselito Mendoza, Rep. Pedro Pancho, Mayor Estrella and Vice Mayor Pedro Cruz, SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., Felicidad Sy, Hans Sy and Herbert Sy joined them.

Other prominent Bulakeños present included [illegible] of Baliwag Transit Inc.; provincial board member [illegible], Baliwag University board of trustees chair, lawyer Domingo Santiago Jr.; former San Rafael Mayor [illegible]; and Councilors Clara Clemente and Tony Patawaran.

Located along Doña Remedios Trinidad Highway, Barangay Pagala, SM City Baliwag is SM Prime Holdings' 33rd supermall and the second in the province of Bulacan. It will serve customers in Baliwag and nearby municipalities in the western part of Bulacan like San Rafael, San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Pulilan, Plaridel, and Bustos, as well as nearby provinces like Nueva Ecija and Pampanga.



SM CITY Baliwag, SM Prime's 33rd Supermall, is located along DRT Highway, Brgy. Pagala, Baliwag, Bulacan.

The 55,000-sq m one-story mall will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to this historic and bustling province. It has the SM Department Store and SM Hypermarket as its major anchors, as well as SM mainstays like SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware and Watsons.

Completing the shopping mix are well-known stores like National Book Store, [illegible], [illegible], Oxygen, Folded & Hung, Pink Box, Sportshouse, [illegible], Ideal Vision Center, Bear Cuddler, Odyssey, Astro Plus, Optic City, Executive Optical, and [illegible]. It also has service outlets like David's for Beauty, Let's Face It, Going Straight, GQ Barbershop, Dental Avenue, Green Image, [illegible], Photo Line, [illegible] Medical, LBC, Mr. Quickie, [illegible], Speedy City and BDO Unibank.

SM City Baliwag's eating-out options include the SM Food Court, which has a mix of national and homegrown outlets like Sisig Hooray, Pepper Barbecue, [illegible] Express, Baliwag Lechon, Hero Sausages, Prime [illegible], Seafood Grill, Sizzling Plate and Ka Dondon. The mall also has a selection of well-known food chains and restaurants like Jollibee, Greenwich, Chowking, Max's Restaurant, Tokyo Tokyo, Bacolod Chicken Inasal, KFC, Red Ribbon and The [illegible] Café.

Film enthusiasts will love the four state-of-the-art cinemas that will screen both local and international blockbuster films, while the Event Center will have concerts by top performers, cultural shows, exhibits, and sports and community activities.

For customer convenience, SM City Baliwag has 795 parking slots and a public transport terminal.



BALIWAG Mayor Romy Estrella, Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza and Rep. Pedro Pancho join SM's Herbert Sy and Henry Sy Sr. (seated).



SM PRIME president Hans Sy (second from left) welcomes the first wave of SM Baliwag shoppers with, from left, SM Supermalls AVP for Operations, engineer [illegible], SM Supermalls president Annie Garcia, and Baliwag Mayor Romy Estrella.



THE FRESH and frozen section at the new SM Hypermarket in Baliwag.

Luxury is still 'in' . . .

From page 41

ence, especially in the run-up to the holidays.

However, conspicuous consumption had given way to discreet spending. They probably still plonked the same six figures on a sneak sale, but the Times report said New York's rich have deserted the established high-end shops and turned to by-invitation shopping events in the homes of their friends, or in hotel suites and private showrooms.

A consumer psychologist interviewed by The Times referred to these private soirees as "the high-end equivalent of a Tupperware party," where fashion blue-blood [illegible] with equally well-heeled guests, sipped champagne and [illegible] diamond [illegible].

Some of these affairs even featured an altruistic spin, turning the shopping soirees into charity events.

These luxury pop-ups have given a boost to private dealers, to the detriment of established luxury merchants, already battered by the recession. Some online sellers have also benefited from this development, according to the report, as the Internet has become an alternative to sizable spending.

Karl Lagerfeld, the designer of



KARL Lagerfeld: "It is very ugly to think [expensive things] shouldn't exist because you cannot buy them."

Chanel, naturally defends this ethic consumerism. He told BBC, "I can be interested in a $20-million diamond I will never buy, without stealing the diamond. If you want only things you can afford, it's boring, too.

"It's great to see things you may not buy—because you don't have the money—but it is very ugly to think they shouldn't exist because you cannot buy them."

Chanel cut 200 jobs or 10 percent of its workforce. Lagerfeld said the downsizes was necessary. "I see it like a cleaning up—it was too rotten anyway—so it had to be cleaned up... I see it like a healthy thing—horrible but healthy, like some suicide movement of the world."

And what now of his thousand-dollar handbags that many women dream and aspire for? The designer remains optimistic of the luxury business.

"If you have no dreams, or if you don't try to improve [life] and life of everybody, people would ask why they get up in the morning.

"People have different kinds of dreams. After all, people need a handbag. There are cheaper handbags. But if you can buy a beautiful one and if that's your dream to buy, why not?"

Fab Fashion Finds for 2009 @ SM Mall of Asia



COOL FINDS FROM PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE (LOOKING COOL IN PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE)

Make those chicks swoon with this light blue [illegible] print long sleeve stretch shirt, look professional or rugged paired with this [illegible] blue men's denim pants.



Flatter your [illegible] figure with this colorful purple [illegible] top, the bright yellow stretch glitter denim pants from [illegible] compliment the cool [illegible] yellow floral pattern trims on the blouse.



HIP FASHION FINDS FROM FOLDED & HUNG (HIP & BLACK AT FOLDED & HUNG)

The fabulous textures of this mini dress from the [illegible] Collection makes a perfect [illegible] dress for a fun night with friends. The black cotton leggings make it extra comfortable.



The soft stretch cotton material of this long sleeved shirt hugs your body in all the right places, pair it with stretch checkered pants and display that handsome physique.



SWEET FASHION FINDS FROM PLAINS & PRINTS (A SWEET & FEMININE YOU AT PLAINS & PRINTS)

Stay classy without being too flashy with this red Hickory dress. Feel graceful & feminine with its soft and smooth woven cotton fabric and black floral embellishments that accentuate the neckline.





POSH FASHION FINDS FROM DOROTHY PERKINS (A POSH NEW LOOK AT DOROTHY PERKINS)

Fall in love with this Victoria Beckham inspired dress and look Posh and fabulous. The fantastic version of Victoria's black [illegible] dress is perfect for [illegible] to bar parties as it's a blank canvas for dressing up or down. It's also the perfect fail-safe dress as it can be worn on almost every occasion.

Club Bulakeño celebrates for a cause

WHEN IT COMES TO showing love for their province, Bulakeños are unrivaled. The flagship Club Bulakeño—made up of leading citizens from the province and others with close ties binding them to it—is the social body whose overall mission is to provide help and support to the people of Bulacan.

Ever since its inception 20 years ago, Club Bulakeño—founded by engineer Genaro "Gene" Reyes and his wife Lydia—has made the ballroom of Sofitel Philippine Plaza its home base for its annual fundraising ball. And, as this year's event proved yet again, the hotel has perfected the art of adding native Bulacan touches to the ballroom and converting it into a home away from home for this unfailingly sparkling event.

Past president Nedy Tantoco, who was prevailed upon by club founder Reyes to help make this 20th Anniversary Emerald Ball truly outstanding to remember, chaired this milestone event.

The club's charitable effort this time around sees a partnership with Gawad Kalinga for the Club Bulakeño–GK Village to be built in Barangay [illegible], in the town of Angat. This project aims to give decent housing to around 50 indigent families in Bulacan.

Construction of the houses in clusters of five houses has already begun. This will continue until the eventual completion of all 50 houses. When completed, Club Bulakeño members hope this will be a lasting legacy and a worthy gift to their beloved province.



LYDIA Reyes, Mayor Jejomar Binay and Baby de Jesus



PATRICK Jacinto, Nedy Tantoco, Lydia Reyes, [illegible] Bulacan Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Jr., Bulacan Gov. Joni Mendoza and Club Bulakeño founder engineer Genaro Reyes

Arriving from an extended trip abroad especially to be present at the ball to offer words of inspiration was one of Bulacan's most eminent sons, Rustan's Group of Companies chair, Ambassador Dr. Bienvenido Tantoco, who has been at the forefront of many of the organization's charitable endeavors. Club Bulakeño is building a Gawad Kalinga Village with 50 houses and Ambassador Tantoco has donated funds to build 10 houses for this village.

Messages of greeting were also imparted by Founding president Gene Reyes and Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza who attended the ball with his sister, former Gov. Josie dela Cruz. Gov. Mendoza also pledged to help the Gawad Kalinga project of Club Bulakeño to fund another 25 houses for which he was much applauded by the guests present that evening.

Apart from Bulakeños young and old, the ball was attended by Sen. Manny Villar, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, former Sen. Franklin Drilon, and Judy Roxas, mother of Sen. Mar Roxas.



LOUIE and Mella Alduos, Dina Joanna Lopez

Also present were Italian Ambassador Rubens Fedele with his wife Cosetta and Argentinean Ambassador Mario Schuff and his wife Sylvia.

A highlight of the night (apart from the sumptuous five-course dinner served up by the chefs of Sofitel) was the Rigodon de Honor, exquisitely danced by club members, including past and present presidents of Club Bulakeño.

Before the ballroom erupted in enthusiastic dancing to the music of Gloria Geronimo and her band, the Club Bulakeño Muse for 2008-09, 15-year-old student Alexandra Adino, made her graceful entrance and paraded around the ballroom with her escort Francisco Lagman.



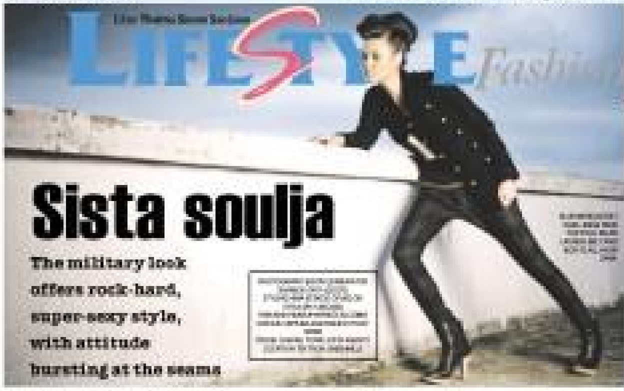
ALLAN Yengco, Aurora Adriano and Tina Castro



2008 Muse Alexandra Adino and mother Lili Adino

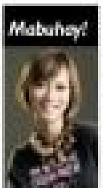
LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Coordinating Editors: Jenni Epperson, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Ria Francisco-Prieto



Sista soulja

The military look offers rock-hard, super-sexy style, with attitude bursting at the seams



Mabuhay!

Jenni J. Epperson









Lanvin eyewear arrives in Manila



LANVIN designer Alber Elbaz

FASHION BUZZ



From eyebrows to scars

Starting the year with self-improvement projects is always a good thing

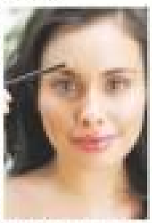


BEAUTIFUL brows

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto





PLUCK stray hairs

GARFIELD



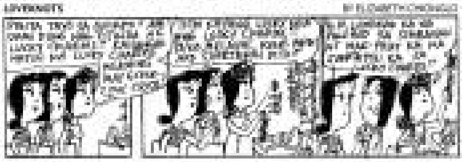


PUGAD BABOY



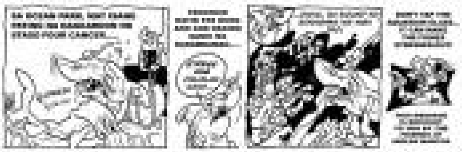
DICK TRACY



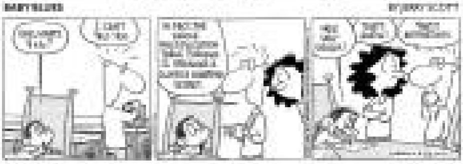


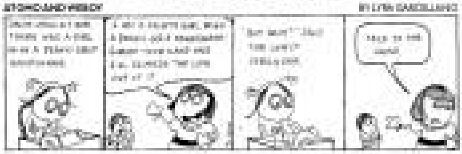
JAMES BOND



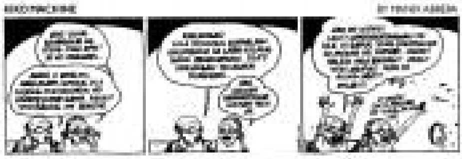


BABY BLUES



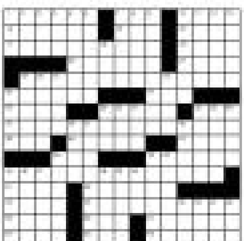




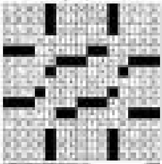




DAILY CROSSWORD



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

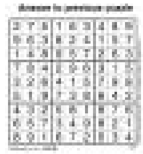
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

						8		6
	8			6				
			7		9			2
		6		9		3		
	2		6		1		5	
		7		3		1		
7			4		2			
				7			1	
3		5						

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Answer to previous puzzle





NOW OPEN IN GREENBELT 5

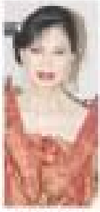
charleskeith.com

Charles & Keith

CHARLES & KEITH



FOXY?? M. Angara, Samsung's Pee Boquer, ABS-CBN publishing head Ernie Lopez and Metro Society editor-in-chief Raul Manzano



ULTRA-GLAM Imelda Cojuangco



EYE-CATCHING faces: Bjoi Fashion and sister Camille with her husband Mackie Marbay



LEIGA Corpo with Rajo Laurel and Tina Ocampo

Lesson from an heiress: If you party hard, wear flats

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

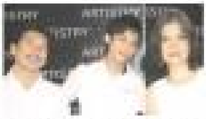
Maurice Arcache



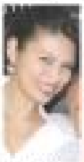
Photos by Alex Van Hagen using PHS Photo Solutions

Cat Arambulo's birthday party

43 going on 25



"PINOY Big Brother Teen Edition" former housemate Mikee Lee with his family



FORMER Bb. Pilipinas-Universe and now stylist Abbie de Leon



VICTOR Ortega with one of his closest clients, singer Faith Cuneta



OUR KING for a Day, Victor Ortega, with Artistry product marketer May Samson, Amway director for marketing & business relations Loti Olmedo and Amway communications & brand PR supervisor Rex Lobos



REPRESENTATIVES from World Vision Philippines Imagen Bonsiolo, Rochelle Ronollan, Jeyson Lilian and Nora Joaquin



JAY CU-UNJIENG with Norman Luna, Marika Jocson and Ipe Cruz



CUTIES Ishi Pilar and Jackie Forster



JEROME Gomez and Carlo Tadiar



GLAMOROUS Ching Cruz with couturier Larry Silva, Tina Cuenca and interior designer Anton Mendoza



JAO WITH FRANCIS Libiran and Ani Balthazar



Stephen Ku, owner of The Tides Hotel in Boracay



EMBASSY Club and Fly's "it" girl, vivacious Cat Arambulo



ENRIQUE Gonzales and sultry Bong Arcenio



BERNARD Lee, Jon Dy and Matthew Lim



RONNIE Balgomino with Cecily Motta and Rocel Go



COOL Owen Sim

ENTERTAINMENT





ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are back together onscreen in "Revolutionary Road," 11 years after they steamed up screens worldwide in "Titanic," still the highest-grossing film of all time. E3

RP films to HK pitching forum

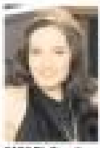
By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Possible co-prod deals

SHOW TIME

Last weekend run for 'Cory'





KARA DioGUARDI

Male 'Idol' bets move new judge



CHEER FACTOR

Bye, from Bollywood to Bush

Leo reunites with pal Kate

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

Some discomfort

'I have no forlorn dream that is unfulfilled. I am very content—and very happy'

Global awareness

AT THE CINEMAS

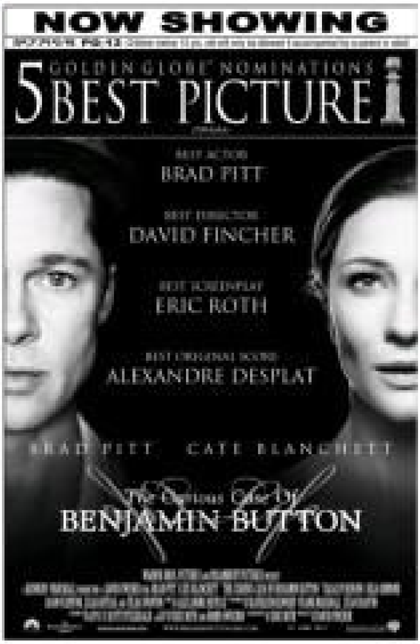
AT THE MALLS





Swayze may have 'just 2 more years'

Did You Know...

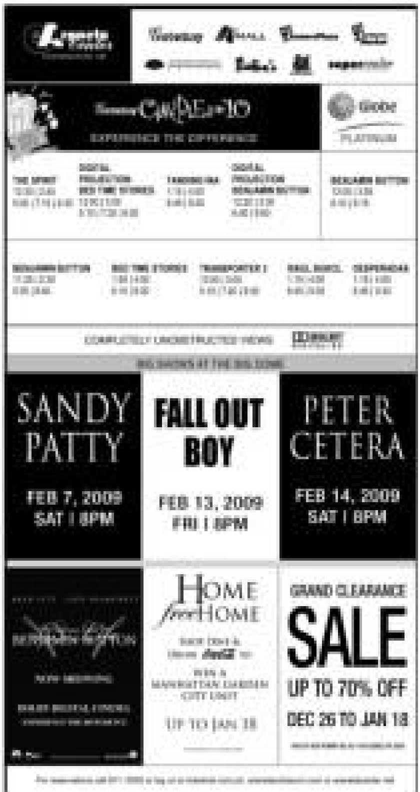


Living the life

Male ...









New segment on 'Wowowee'

Click!

Asian TV choice

New 'Merlin' series

Actors set to pick guild head

Lawmaker-members root for Phillip Salvador

'Like Daboy'

This month



FROM left: Jinggoy Estrada, Phillip Salvador and Bong Revilla during a recent interview with Inquirer. They are three of the closest friends of former guild president Rudy Fernandez.

Housing

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Bruce Lee's last HK home to be saved as a tourist site

Cheer Factor

LIVING Stars



CHEER FACTOR

JENNIFER GARNER GAVE BIRTH TO A healthy baby girl in Los Angeles on Tuesday, People magazine reported. Garner and her husband Ben Affleck, both 36, also have a 3-year-old daughter, Violet. *Reuters*

OUT OF THE CLOSET



ITEMS from Top Shop and ? are perfect for Cheska's petite frame.



FLORAL tops, perfect for summer.



CHANDELIER earrings from Amal Papa, bracelet from Angel Aquino.





SHE likes Hermes, Max Mara, Victor & Rolf and Bulgari because they're not common.

The girl's a shoe addict

By Maried R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esguerra

TV HOST AND COMMERCIAL model Cheska Garcia is a shoe addict.

Cheska, who just recently married PBA cager Doug Kramer, admitted this to Living Stars during our recent visit to her Mandaluyong City townhouse. "Doug and I have an agreement—I'm allowed two or three new pairs a month. Sometimes, I make lambing so he allows me to buy more. But that's only when I really, really like a pair," the TV host said as she ushered us into her bedroom, where she keeps racks upon racks of shoes.

Cheska also admitted to being an impulsive buyer, "even if the pair isn't really comfortable." She added that she would sometimes purchase a pair simply on the strength of looks.

"But if you want to be practical," Cheska pointed out, "try to go window-shopping first for shoes that fit right. Since there are a lot of footwear in the market, that won't be too difficult."

Footwear

I love wearing flats. I like them very colorful. The nicest thing about my Bruno Menale (PM—a brand she endorses) flats is that they're very cute and comfy.

I love my Adidas rubber shoes, too—printed Louis Vuitton logo design. They're not bulky. It's both so nice to be able to find a pair this way.

I love my Stella Luna as well. This pair is similar to the popular platform styles but they're not as clunky. They're also special because Doug bought the pair for me.

I have a few from Spades, but these are two of my favorites. My dad gave them to me. I love the designs. And they look very good on my narrow feet.

Dresses

This blue PM dress is a favorite because of the ruched [illegible] as its neckline. It has a classic design. I also like how it glitters. I love wearing short dresses because I'm petite.

I love the fabric of this floral dress. Its looks sexy. "No, I found it in a store in Nevada. It has a nice green color. I never get tired of it. I've worn this dress three times already.

Every girl has to have a little black dress in her closet. Mine has a classic cut. No matter how much I wear it, it will never go out of style.

Accessories

I like belts because I enjoy putting accents on my outfits. PM has really nice belts. Another favorite item is from Silly Belts (shows a belt with leopard prints). I got this when we featured Silly Belts in "Us Girls."

My ultimate favorite is from Top Shop. It's a rope, very flexible. You can put it on your waist or on your hip. It makes any outfit look very classy.

I have a lot of PM necklaces. They are super easy to match. I also like a lot of rolls, especially the ones given by ("Us Girls" co-host) Angel Aquino on my birthday.

This pair of chandelier earrings is a gift from Filipino designer Amal Papa. Drew Barrymore wore one of his accessories—if not at the Oscars, the Golden Globes.

I bought this other pair of earrings in [illegible]. It has a lot of vintage accessories that, I guess, he buys abroad. This is made of ivory.

The rope bracelet is from Zoo in Greenbelt 5. It has semi-precious stones. Another pair, which used to be my mom's, is apparently from Iran.

Bags

This red Louis Vuitton bag is my favorite because it's not so hard to match with outfits. It's very attractive as it is.

My Michael Kors is special because my husband gave it to me. I love its unusual color. Your bag should reflect your lifestyle. If you're a busy person, try to get a bag for its functionality rather than for its style. Your money will be worth it.

Scents

I used to like perfumes that are a bit musky or have a powdery scent. I like Hermes (Hello Calèche), Max Mara, Victor & Rolf (Flowerbomb) and Bulgari (Bvlgari). They're not very common among Pinoys.

Tops

This knitted long-sleeved top makes you look slim. The fabric is not too thick. I have this in white, black and gray. It's something I wear on lazy days.

I love my plaid button-down shirts from PM because they hug the body in the right places.

This very cute top is perfect for the summer, especially when you go to the beach in your swimsuit. It's adjustable. You can wear it loose or tied around your hips. You can use it as a dress or with shorts.

Bottoms

This pair of PM pin-striped shorts is very cute. It has suspenders. I normally wear this with a cute sandals, my flats and a cute bag.

My favorite PM skirt has a nice faded look to it. I like the embroidery patch on its pocket.

A few of my pants are from ? (for All Mankind). They're a perfect fit for me. I have a hard time looking for a good pair of jeans because I'm very small. Top Shop is also good. It has a petite section.

E-mail mcruz@inquirer.com.ph



CLASSIC [illegible]



LONG-sleeved knit tops make her look even more slim.

THESE LV and Michael Kors bags are her favorites.

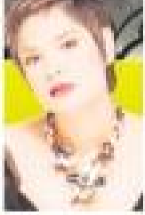




SHE says belts can make outfits look classy.

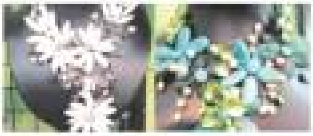
HOBBIES

SNOOKY SERNA



"PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE," said the text message from Snooky Serna. "It is still under construction, but you can (already) see some of my jewelry designs."

Here are three of the many that are found in the colorful [illegible]. Snooky said [illegible] we could tell that her fashion jewelry and several beaded accessories can be purchased online.





STAR AT THE BAGUIO 'UKAY'

GMA 7 talent Rhian Ramos was recently sighted in the Bayanihan Center in Baguio City, a favorite destination for ukay-ukay enthusiasts. Contributor Jake Ramirez, who snapped the pic, said the young star, noted for good fashion sense, was looking at vintage signature purses.

BOOKS

VICKI BELO

"A COURSE IN Miracles" (published by the Foundation of Inner Peace) is a favorite. It's a spiritual psychology book. It helps me stay grounded. When you're in a profession like mine, you deal with many stresses. The book helps me calm down. I'm also currently reading "The Five Things We Cannot Change," by David Richo. I'm a control freak. It reassures me when I can't control things that are happening. The book says, if you learn to accept (that you can't control everything) you'll be truly happy. *Maried R. Cruz*



FAVORITE NOOKS

GABY CONCEPCION



MY FOUR KIDS LOOK FORWARD TO SAPS when I take charge in the kitchen. I ask them what they like about my cooking and they say that I have a special ingredient that makes everything I cook taste better—which is, of course, love. My favorite recipes are the Spanish dishes passed on to me by my good friend, chef Reggie Aspiras. Paella and Fabada are the most requested. My husband (broadcaster and Milton lawyer) Danny's specialties are Filipino food and he can whip them up without a recipe book. I've bought most of my pots and pans on sale from Gonda and Calphalon in the US over the years. *Raymond Kim Diego Jr.*